Measuring Community Success

Above: Community members gather at a plan meeting.

Introduction

This chapter of the United Southwest Communities Plan focuses on community indicators. The following indicators will be used to determine if progress is being made towards the community's goals.

National examples of indicators include the consumer price index, the number of highway-related fatalities and the national unemployment rate. Indicators used by people everyday include checking account balances or gas gauges. Indicators can be used to raise awareness of community issues, inform decision-making and identify trends. The results of the indicator analysis can be used to publicize good works or identify work what needs to be done. As required by the Unified Development Code, the community should publish a biennial progress report indicating progress on plan implementation as shown through positive changes measured by the community's indicators. The report also could call for volunteers or policy changes needed to spur action.

Community Development

A new business on Old Pearsall Road.

Indicator 1: Economic Development

Baseline: 127 properties within the plan area classified by Bexar Appraisal District for commercial and industrial uses (F1 and F2 governor codes).

Desired Future Outcome: Increase number of commercial properties.

Data Source: Bexar Appraisal District.

Frequency of Review: Annually.

Indicator 2: Urban Design

Baseline: No special zoning districts to address the compatibility of new construction.

Desired Future Outcome: Adoption of at least one of the following: a Corridor Overlay District along Southwest Loop 410, a Neighborhood Conservation District or a Noise Overlay Zone.

Data Source: City of San Antonio Development Services Department

Frequency of Review: Annually

A new home in Sky Harbour.

Indicator 3: Home Ownership

Baseline: Year 2000 homeownership rate of 62.1% for the plan area (4,517 owner occupied units out of 8,991 total residential units).

Desired Future Outcome: Increase homeownership rate.

Data Source: US Census Bureau data for census tracts 1613.001-5, 1613.021, 1615.011-5 and 1618.002-4.

Frequency of Review: Every 10 years

A home in the Hidden Cove area

Transportation & Infrastructure

Indicator 4: Expenditures on Capital Improvement Projects in the Community

Baseline: Current projects programmed for implementation. (see appendix F)

Desired Future Outcome: Increase spending on projects identified on pages 61 to 63 of the plan until those projects are implemented.

Data Source: City of San Antonio Public Works—Capital Projects Officers, TxDOT Public Information Office, MPO

Frequency of Review: Annually

Recently completed pedestrian bridge in the Hidden Cove neighborhood

Indicator 5: VIA Bus Service

Bus shelter on Five Palms

Baseline: VIA routes 550, 551, 611, 614, 616, and 619 serve the community. Approximately 36% of the planning area is within 1/4 mile of a VIA route.

Desired Future Outcome: Increase percentage of the plan area that is within 1/4 mile of a VIA route.

Data Source: VIA Metropolitan Transit, Advanced Transportation District.

Frequency of Review: Annually

Community Facilities & Quality of Life

Indicator 6: Park land acreage

Lackland Rail Spur

Baseline: Current acreage of usable parks within the plan area. (287.6 acres consisting of Pearsall Park, Royalgate and Miller's Pond)

Desired Future Outcome: Increase acreage of land devoted to usable parks, open space and community gardens (including planned facilities at Gateway Terrace, Hillside Acres and the Lackland Spur Rail-to-Trail.)

Data Source: City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department

Frequency of Review: Annually

Indicator 7: Health and wellness programs

Baseline: Existing programs available (Project Worth, WIC, etc)

Desired Future Outcome: Increase number of health and wellness initiatives as identified in the plan (pp. 72-73) including an immunization drive, a 5K run and environmental monitoring with particular interest to making more services available at the Pearsall Park Community Center.

Data Source: Metro Health, City of San Antonio Environmental Services Department

Frequency of Review: Annually

The area has several former landfills.

Indicator 8: Community Policing

Baseline: Number of neighborhood watch and COP programs in the area in 2005.

Desired Future Outcome: Establish more neighborhood watch and COP programs for areas with safety concerns.

Data Source: San Antonio Police Department

Frequency of Review: Annually.

COP sign provided to a neighborhood